

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/663,381	KAZMIERCZAK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shumaya B. Ali	3743	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Henry Bennett (Supervisory Patent Examiner, SPE). (3) Guliana, Michael (attorney of record).
 (2) Shumaya Ali (Examiner). (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 02 March 2006.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
 c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.

If Yes, brief description: Mr. Guliana's demonstration of the invention was highly appreciated.

Claim(s) discussed: 1,13,15 and 23.

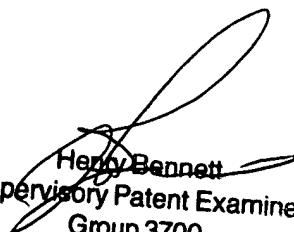
Identification of prior art discussed: US 2004/0129278A1.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

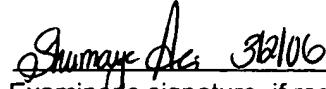
Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


 Henry Bennett
 Supervisory Patent Examiner
 Group 3700

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Shumaya B. Ali 3/21/06
 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Discussion on the novelty of the invention: Mr. Giuliana discussed US Patent no. 6659971 to Gaylord does not disclose or suggest a shoulder sling having a support pillow in which a distance between anterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces is substantially greater than a distance between posterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces and Gaylord also does not disclose or suggest a shoulder sling for supporting a wearer's arm at a desired angle of external rotation. Examiner Ali agrees that Gaylord does not disclose "external rotation", however Mr. Giuliana was addressed that the recitation "supporting a wearer's arm at a desired angles of abduction and external rotation" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble [See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951)]. Mr. Giuliana was advised to amend claims to incorporate "external rotation" into the limitations of claims 1, 13,15, and 23. However, while Examiner Ali is in agreement with proposed amendments to incorporate preamble recitation into the claim limitation to over come Gaylord reference, Mr. Giuliana was suggested to consider the prior art made of record US 2004/0129278 A1.

Discussion on prior art reference: Examiner Ali presented US Application Publication 2004/0129278 A1 to Itoi, which teaches "external rotation" (see 0017, 0033). Mr. Giuliana was directed to figure 2 where a support block 10 having a width of an anterior edge greater than an posterior edge, thereby reciting limitations "a distance between anterior edges of the medial and lateral surfaces is substantially greater than a distance between posterior edges of the medial and lateral surface" of claims 1 and 15.

Discussion on Gaylord in view of Jagdat: Examiner Ali agrees that Jagdat reference lacking necessary motivation for combining the two references.

Discussion on "indicator line" (claim 13): Mr. Giuliana was suggested to amend claim to incorporate "indicator line" with respect to the "degree of external rotation"

SPE Henry Bennett and Examiner Ali appreciate Mr. Giuliana's time and effort in discussing patentable matters; notice however an updated search is required based on the future amendments to the claim(s) in order to finalize any decisions on the patentable matters. .